

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a A-system of linked gaming machines, is disclosed herein. Upon upon a certain triggering event occurring, eligible gaming machines simultaneously receive a signal for initiating a free game bonus round. The players that have been playing the gaming machines will then play a certain number of free games in a competition with other players involved in the same bonus round. A free game pot, common to all the linked machines involved in the free games, pays all awards for the free games. Since the free game pot must fully support the free games prior to a free game round being initiated, and the requirement for the free game pot amount dynamically changes based on the number of eligible machines to be involved in the free game round, the percentage from the wagers for paid games allocated to the free game pot is dynamically adjusted. The player awarded the most credits or points from the play of the free games is awarded a special jackpot. Other jackpot games (e.g., split jackpot) are also envisioned. In another embodiment, a jackpot award or any award to the player may be granted based on a certain outcome of the free games. The possibility of the free game bonus round occurring at any time provides incentive for players to keep playing the linked gaming machines. The free game bonus round may also be played on a single non-linked machine where bonuses may be granted for credits exceeding certain levels. Other features are described, such as the dynamic allocation of percentages of wagers to various jackpots and other pots used in the free game bonus round.